

To: support@fkec.org[support@fkec.org]
Cc: Beck, Nancy[Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bolen, Derrick[bolen.derrick@epa.gov]
From: Keller, Kaitlin
Sent: Fri 5/11/2018 3:43:54 PM
Subject: RE: Oxitec

Good Morning Barry,

We do conduct various levels of outreach beyond the Federal Register process depending on the issue, but the best way to ensure you receive updates on pesticide-related issues is to sign up for our email list, which is at the bottom of [EPA's pesticides homepage](#). Below is the update that went out this week on this issue, also now available on our web [here](#). Please share with your stakeholders as appropriate.

Nancy would be happy to meet with you and to hear your concerns. Derick Bolen (cc'ed) can work with you to find a date that works for you and our office. A quick note in advance of scheduling, the timeframe you suggested might present a bit of a challenge--our office has multiple key statutory deadlines the 3rd week of June, and Nancy will be on travel the last week of June—but Derrick always finds a way to make it work. Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility. We also still encourage you to submit any substantive comments to the docket prior to comment period closing on June 7, 2018.

Best Regards,

Kaitlin

Kaitlin Keller, Special Assistant

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-7098

EPA Pesticide Program Updates

From EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs

www.epa.gov/pesticides

May 10, 2018

In This Update:

EPA Reopens Public Comment Period on Application for Experimental Use Permit to Combat Mosquitoes

In response to requests from stakeholders, EPA is reopening the public comment period regarding an application from Oxitec Ltd. for an experimental use permit (EUP) for genetically engineered OX513A *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

EPA first announced the availability of Oxitec's application for an experimental use permit on March 9, 2018, in the Federal Register. Following review of the application, data and public comments, EPA will decide whether to issue or deny the EUP request and, if issued, the conditions under which the study is to be conducted.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes can spread several diseases of significant human health concern, including the Zika virus. Oxitec's genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are designed to suppress wild *Aedes aegypti* populations. Genetically engineered male mosquitoes are released into the environment to mate with wild female mosquitoes, and the resulting offspring do not survive.

Oxitec's proposed experimental program is designed to take place over 24 months in Harris County, Texas, and Monroe County, Florida. For additional details [view the entire proposal](#).

Public comments about this proposed EUP should be submitted to www.regulations.gov under docket # [EPA HQ-OPP-2017-0756](#) on or before June 7, 2018.

EPA distributes its Pesticide Program Updates to external stakeholders and citizens who have expressed an interest in the agency's pesticide program activities and decisions. This update service is part of EPA's continuing effort to improve public access to federal pesticide information.

For general questions about pesticides and pesticide poisoning prevention, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), by email at npic@ace.orst.edu or, by visiting <http://npic.orst.edu>.

For information about ongoing activities in the Office of Pesticide Programs, visit our homepage at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

From: support@fkec.org [<mailto:support@fkec.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 9:38 AM

To: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Keller, Kaitlin <keller.kaitlin@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Oxitec

Hi Nancy,

Thank you so much for reaching out to assure we were informed. We realize the standard notification process is via the FR, but does the EPA ever reach out to local media with either a direct Press Release, or courtesy email of some sort direct communication to media in the community affected, to let them know that there is a subject of interest for their citizens. Both Monroe County, FL and Harris County, TX has citizens who need to be aware and the FR is not something that even the press follows well. We feel the EPA provides a larger and more readily published voice that would reach deeper into these communities with standing on this issue.

As the EPA science team begins the investigation. We would welcome a chance in the next 45 to 60 days to discuss the evaluation of the OX513A EUP application and the safety concerns we feel have not been address in prior reviews.

Our groups within the Coalition are very focused on the scientific evaluation of this technology and as you may be aware we have embraced other Sterile Insect Techniques, that provide a

clearer understanding of risk and benefits than the historical Oxitec OX513A field trial applications have in the past. We have been working on this issue for over 7 years, so the knowledge within our work is deep and some of the discoveries that our member have made, we believe will help the comprehensive outcome of the EPA's considerations surrounding the Oxitec EUP Application.

Given the new comment period will close in mid June, perhaps a 3rd week of June, or second week of July meeting (trying avoiding any holiday conflicts) will provide an opportunity for your team to meet a few of our key contributors and discuss our concerns. We are hopeful that this will include representatives from Harris County as well, but the awareness in that community is very low, hence our questions about the public relations/ Press Release outreach.

Thanks again for your direct outreach initiative to us and you and your team's commitment to service. We look forward to an opportunity to meet in person.

Sincerely,

Barry Wray
Executive Director
Florida Keys Environmental Coalition
PO Box 205
Key West, FL 33041
www.fkec.org
support@fkec.org
305-304-9898



On May 8, 2018, at 8:26 AM, Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Barry,

Thank you for your input. We have reopened/extended the comment period.

The FR notice announcing the extension is here: [https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-08/pdf/2018-](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-08/pdf/2018-09777.pdf)

[09777.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-08/pdf/2018-09777.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=)

Regards,

Nancy

Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT

Deputy Assistant Administrator, OCSPP

P: 202-564-1273

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

beck.nancy@epa.gov

From: support@fkec.org [mailto:support@fkec.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 2:33 PM

To: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: Oxitec

Dear Nancy,

We realize you are the team lead on the OX513A Oxitec Genetically Modified Mosquito (GMM) evaluation. While there are many comments being worked on, there is also not an ample amount of time for people to respond with the quality of comments needed to support the investigative level we feel this technology and this particular company should be viewed with.

The most recent proposal expands venues and seems to have changes in both claims and process for testing these mosquitoes. While it is not appropriate to go into deep discussions here, we do feel it appropriate that the EPA should afford ample time for groups like ours to work with our members and assemble the scientific input that will help the EPA perform with the most current observations, data and concerns. We humbly ask that the comment period be expanded to a minimum of 60 days in total.

Oxitec has had years to perfect their story, ever evolving as it may be. We are the affected citizens and have witnessed the difficulty of combating the resources of a \$4B company with just your passions, communication network and intellect. We do however represent the best of what our nation is about, the people asking relevant and challenging questions, most of which Oxitec has not answered over the 6 plus years that we have been engaging them.

Please afford the public additional time to present a clearer picture of Oxitec, along with the concerns and questions we should all be asking.

My sincere thanks,

Barry Wray
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